the SCCL management and the collieries started functioning normally from the first shift of 8.2.2003.

(c) During the strike period following steps were taken by SCCL to run the mines effectively:—

(i) The cooperation of loyal workmen, all officers and police department were sought,

(ii) Coal Despatches were made at an average of 64,000 tonnes per day.

(iii) Sufficient coal supplies and stocks maintained for linked power houses,

(iv) Upon a request from SCCL management to Ministry of Coal, coal supplies from CIL were diverted to some of the power houses linked to SCCL.

**Closure of loss making mines**

1392. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been actively considering to closing down of some of the loss making mines in the country;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the exact causes of losses of such coal mines have been assessed;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government have taken any steps to revive such loss making coal mines; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) to (f) Closing mining activities in coal mines and opening of new coal mines is an ongoing process. Depending on parameters like exhaustion of coal reserves, economic viability of the coal mines, safety consideration, technical feasibility, ability of the coal company to redeploy the working in a more viable mine etc., operational decisions are taken by the coal companies to close mining activities in some mines and also to open some new mines. 53 coal mines have been identified by the subsidiary coal

companies of Coal India Limited for suspension of operation in a phased manner. The lacation of these mines, company-wise and State-wise, and reasons for suspension are as under:-

| Company | West Bengal | Jharkhand | Reasons for the proposed suspension of operation |
|---|---|---|---|
| Eastern Coalfields Ltd. | 23 | 3 | Economically unviable |
| Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. | — | 15 | Economically unviable |
| Central Coalfields Ltd. | — | 12 | Economically unviable |
| TOTAL: | 23 | 30 | |

However Government have stated on several occasions that workmen will not be retrenched on account of closure of mines or suspension of mining operations but will be suitably redeployed.

**P.F. office in Godavarikhani in Andhra Pradesh**

1393. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open a Provident Fund office in Godavarikhani in Karimnagar district of Andhra Pradesh, for the benefit of Singareni Coal Company Ltd.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The decision of shifting the Coal Mines Provident Fund (CMPF) regional office from Hyderabad to Godavarikhani was taken by the Board of Trustees, Coal Mines Provident Fund in its 126th Meeting held on 23.3.1999. Accordingly, CMPF Management initiated action to shift the office. However, the aggrieved employees of the CMPF regional office of Hyderabad filed a Writ Petition before the Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad and the Court has granted a stay on shifting of